

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02701 260839Z

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 MMS-03 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 251520Z FEB 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9897

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCOUNSL MADRAS

CINCPAC

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 2701

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, US, IN, XO

SUBJ: JOURNALIST VISITS TO DIEGO GARCIA

REF: NEW DELHI 2631

1. BRITISH COLLEAGUES REPORT FROM THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING GRANTING PERMISSION FOR SOME FIVE JOURNALISTS TO VISIT DIEGO GARCIA. THEY ONLY LEARNED THIS WHEN THEY NOTIFIED LONDON AND THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ABOUT ALAN BRADFORD'S REQUEST TO VISIT DIEGO GARCIA FOR ABC NEWS (REFTEL). AS THE BRITISH HAVE IT, DEFENSE IS IN FAVOR OF A VISIT NOW TO SHOW HOW LIMITED THE FACILITY IS TODAY AND HOW LIMITED ARE THE AREAS FOR ITS FUTURE EXPANSION, AND THE DPEARTMENT IS REPORTED NOT TO HAVE REACHED A DECISION ON THE MATOER. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD TO LEARN ABOUT THIS SECOND HAND FROM THE BRITISH HERE.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 02701 260839Z

2. MY VIEW US STILL THAT THE LESS SAID ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA THE BETTER. SHOWING JOURNALISTS THE "AUSTERE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY" NOW WILL ONLY WHET THEIR APPATITE FOR INFORMATION ON HOW PLUSH IT IS EXPECTED TO BECOME IN THE FUTURE. FURTHERMORE, IF WE PERMIT A VISIT NOW, ARE WE IN EFFECT COMMITTING OURSELVES TO PERMIT LATER VISITS? REFUSAL TO PERMIT A LATER VISIT WOULD BE SEEN AS CONCEALMENT.

3. PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED WHAT YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT THIS VISIT QUESTION, INCLUDING WHAT CORRESPONDENTS AND FROM WHAT COUNTRIES YOU PLAN TO INCLUDE, BEFORE IT ALL APPEARS IN THE PRESS.

MOYNIHAN

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NNN

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